

THE LADDER

Upper Tetrachord { Lower Tetrachord { 	C	Half Step	B
	Whole Step		
	A		
	Whole Step		
	G		
	Whole Step		
	F	Half Step	E
	Whole Step		
	D		
	Whole Step		
	C		

THE MAJOR SCALE

The word Scale means a "ladder." In music, a Scale consists of the successive tones from one Home Tone to its octave (from C to C, or from F to F, etc.).

The Major Scale consists of an orderly succession of Whole Steps and Half Steps. The Ladder on this page shows the arrangement of Whole Steps and Half Steps for the Scale of C Major.

THE MAJOR SCALE OF C On the Keyboard and on the Staff

+ indicates a Whole Step
— indicates a Half Step

TETRACHORDS

By studying the Ladder on this page you will see that the Scale is divided into two Tetrachords. A Tetrachord is a little pattern of four tones. The two Tetrachords are alike, because both progress upward in this manner: whole step, whole step, half step. There is a whole step between the Tetrachords.

AN EASY WAY TO LEARN THE SCALE

By omitting the thumbs, you can hold the fingers of your hands like the whole steps and the half steps of the two Tetrachords. (See picture of the two hands.) This will be the easy and natural Hand Positions for playing the Major Scale divided between the two hands. Try in this way to play the C Major Scales as given below.

SCALE OF C MAJOR - Both hands playing in the Treble

Both hands playing in the Bass